



**LITUSGO: Training Mediterranean Local
Authorities and Civil Organizations on Integrated
Coastal Zone Management and Reaction to the
impacts of climate change**

Final Report

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Executive Summary

LitusGo is a Leonardo Da Vinci Multilateral- Development of innovation project of 2009. According to data (e.g UNDP-ACT, Eurostat) there is a gap in information, training and capacity building on Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Climate Changes in the Mediterranean at Local level. LitusGo had as major aim to contribute to the filling of the training gap through the development of a well-structured, innovative, interactive, work-linked vocational training program, directly focused on **Mediterranean** Local Authorities, NGOs and practitioners. This is why **LitusGo partnership was** a multi actor group, a blend of the major coastal key stakeholders: SMEs, NGOs and Local Authorities: seven partners from Cyprus, Greece, Malta and The Netherlands.

During the 30 months of the project duration, LitusGo group developed a **methodology and a capacity building processes** tuned to accommodate **Mediterranean particularities and needs especially in touristic coastal areas and islands**. The LitusGo method is strongly **participatory**, with the main characteristic of blending expert knowledge with local experience and local stakeholder participation, from the very beginning. Stakeholder meetings and workshops have been organized in the participant pilot areas. The real **needs** of local stakeholders for training have been identified through a gap analysis survey, based on dedicated LitusGo questionnaires, which ran in all pilot areas (see Gap Analysis report on LitusGo portal). **Cultural particularities** were inherent in the partnership and thus played an important role in the development of the work. A strict **quality control** process of the products was an inherent part of LitusGo and together with a structured **evaluation** process of the educational material and the training methods which was done by the stakeholders during the pilot trainings, LitusGo had a coherent and on-going quality control process throughout its implementation.

The **methodology** of LitusGo is problem solving oriented and this was the innovation and the “strong” issue of the education activity. The educational package of LitusGo, which is the major product of the project, consists of the Trainees Manual and the “hints” Manual-guide for the trainers. **The Trainees Manual** consists of 20 autonomous, self-contained and inter-related modules, available in four languages, Greek, English, Maltese and Turkish and in three different forms: the dedicated wiki application in the LitusGo portal, the dvd and the hard copy version, which consists of 20 self-contained booklets, one for each module, kept in a hard collective case. LitusGo produced more than **60 deliverables**, which include reports, surveys, tips and hints guides and more. Most of the reports and the Manuals are **ISBN publications** and are available to the public through the portal.

Information and Communication Technologies have been extensively used in the project in an innovative and creative way with the creation of the dynamic portal (www.litusgo.eu) and the wiki application for the e-Training Manuals.

A lot of effort was devoted to the **dissemination and the exploitation** of LitusGo outcomes, the promotion of networking and synergies, since this is considered as a guarantee for **sustainability**: regular involvement of Mass Media (newspapers (with two times being the headline), radio and TV interviews), announcements in conferences, blogs and facebook, participation in events were on-going activities. It is estimated that information on LitusGo reached more than 100000 people through mass media and events. More than 100 Local Authorities have been involved in one way or another, NGOs and social groups participated in several education activities, and more than 100 people participated in the pilot trainings. The potential of LitusGo to continue is high.

Several entities and civil society organizations showed interest in the LitusGo methodology and products. Interest has been already expressed to use LitusGo training material, by several other Regions and Local Authorities.

The innovative and participatory approach of LitusGo and the innovative themes of Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Climate Changes make the LitusGo Education Method challenging and gives a potential for further exploitation and implementation.

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1. Project Objectives

LitusGo aims at filling the training gap in Integrated Coastal Zone Management issues and reactions to the impact of climate changes, through the development of a well-structured, innovative, interactive, work-linked vocational training program, directly focused on Mediterranean Local Authorities and NGOs and through them to practitioners, such as Civil Engineers, Architects, Planners and to stakeholders such as teachers and the tourism sector. LitusGo is tuned to accommodate Mediterranean particularities and needs especially in touristic coastal areas and islands.

Mediterranean coastal areas have been identified as a part of Europe that is under severe degradation (EEA) and under significant threat from climate changes (IPPC). The knowledge among the key actors (the target group mentioned in the previous paragraph) is very limited, according to existing surveys (eg. UNDP-ACT- CESF Jan. 2009 and Eurostat). Also, these key-actors are usually in conflicting each other. LitusGo's objective is to fill this gap.

The training methods implemented by LitusGo have a problem solving character and are based on innovative and creative approaches: work-linked training, good practices, mobility among the partners, field visits, implementation of interactive ICT tools, on-the-job trainings, dedicated workshops, test-training sessions and field visits etc. Through this innovative and interactive approach, the key actors can have multiple benefits through their involvement in LitusGo:

- Get new knowledge, promote thus the “knowledge society”, a target set in Lisbon Strategy
- Be familiar with methods and tools to manage these critical issues
- Promote sustainable economic growth and social cohesion
- Gain new skills on integrated coastal zone management and on adaptation to climate changes
- Create new job opportunities, by implementing the solutions suggested by LitusGo or by promoting sustainable development practices (such as compost, within a framework of sustainable waste management)
- Networking with other entities in Europe
- Create synergies among local and trans-national key-actors

2. Project Approach

The LitusGo approach is problem-solving oriented and involves active and cooperative learning methods, such as peer learning and e-training. The aim is to enhance participation, promote positive learning attitudes among the conflicting key actors-target groups and provide them with the needed knowledge base to serve them either as decision makers or foster their position in the labor market.

The focus is to address the real local conditions and needs, the actual Mediterranean particularities, through examples and a “hands-on” approach, so the participants will be motivated to further implement this new knowledge. The tools to achieve this task have been: baseline studies, dedicated need assessment surveys, a robust dissemination and exploitation strategy and work, the active participation of stakeholders, the extensive use of information and communication technologies. The Education Package that has been developed, with the Trainees and Trainers Manuals, is the result of all this effort, this systematic approach to set down real local needs and deal with them through a solution-oriented approach. The key milestones of LitusGo structure and approach are the following:

- The inception period included two major baseline studies that (1) identified the Gap in training needs of the stakeholders and (2) mapping of the existing structure and conditions of vocational training in each Med-partner country. Together with the creation of the Local Info Data Base, with info from each pilot area, they formed the framework that is important in order to address the real needs of local people.
- The two training Manuals, (WP3 and 4): their development was a result of a strong participatory process, with the involvement of all the partners and local stakeholders. Expert knowledge was blended with local experience and local stakeholder participation. The final drafts and the training method have been tested through pilot trainings in Malta, Greece and Cyprus, through evaluations, and comments from non-partnership entities. All these have been incorporated in order to result in the final Manuals, translated in four languages (English, Greek, Maltese and Turkish) and available in three versions: the wiki-version on the portal, the dvd- version and the hard copy.
- Information and Communication Technologies are extensively used in LitusGo in an innovative and creative way with the creation of a dynamic portal (www.litusgo.eu) and the implementation of mediawiki for the e-Training Manuals, a coastal group in Facebook, etc. www.litusgo.eu is available for users, provides free data base facilities, useful information and networking possibilities.

- Dissemination and exploitation strategies are core activities of LitusGo and are designed as dynamic- adaptive systems, in order to achieve visibility, publicity and sustainability. Dissemination activities have been systematic and much more effective than initially planned. This had a significant impact on the promotion of the project tasks. Info on the dissemination activities, such as films from TV interviews on LitusGo, headlines in newspapers, are available in the portal.
- Stakeholder participation is promoted through multi-stakeholders workshops, frequent e-mail communication, the IT tools, through mass media broadcastings and personal contact. A participatory project and a multi-stakeholder character form the basic axes of the LitusGo approach.
- One important characteristic of LitusGo is that all the products are available in the languages of the partnership, i.e. Greek, Maltese and English, as well as in Turkish, in order to involve Turkish Cypriot potential users, NGOs and stakeholders.

The impacts of LitusGo are already significant. Several entities and civil society organizations have shown interest in the LitusGo methodology and products. There is an already expressed interest to use LitusGo training material, by several other Regions and Local Authorities.

The innovative and participatory approach of LitusGo and the innovative themes of Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Climate Changes make the project challenging and gives a potential for further exploitation and implementation..

3. Project Outcomes & Results

A total of 64 deliverables have been produced during the 30 months of LitusGo, while only 44 have been identified in the original proposal. They have been designed in order to comply with the participatory and problem-solving methodology of LitusGo and they include the Education Manuals (in the wiki and a pdf form), reports, meetings, strategies, a dynamic portal, forums, e-groups, surveys, gap analyses, photo gallery, vocational training mapping, a web-info-data base for each pilot area, dissemination activities, web-based work and more. Most of the reports and all the Modules of the Manual are ISBN publications. All of them are uploaded on the LitusGo portal: www.litusgo.eu.

Here are some of the most important. The rest can be found in the portal:

- **The LitusGo Educational Manual:**

- ✓ **Trainees Manual:** this Manual is the major product of LitusGo. It consists of 20 autonomous, self-contained and inter-related modules, available in four languages, Greek, English, Maltese and Turkish and in three different forms: the dedicated wiki application in the LitusGo portal, the dvd and the hard copy version, which consists of 20 self-contained booklets, one for each module, kept in a hard collective case. All modules have a common structure and size/ text length, which was strictly kept short (six A4 pages, including photographs or texts), in order to “invite” the reader to go through it and not “terrify” him with enormous texts. It has a logical structure that allows the text to naturally unfold as the reader progresses through the document. Each module is structured in five chapters:
 - Theoretical background (short, with tips and references so anybody interested can go further)
 - Objectives (why we deal with this problem, what are the LitusGo aims?)
 - Problems (the most usual problems for a Local Authority and Local stakeholders)
 - How to deal with the problems (suggestions, good practices, photographs, diagrams)
 - Bibliography and Relevant sources of information
- ✓ **Trainers manual:** this manual was given the friendly-to-use form of “Hints and tools”. The LitusGo Trainers Manual was developed to support the trainers who are going to teach/ train Local Authorities and Local stakeholders in ICZM

and climate changes, based on the LitusGo Education Manual. It is a “hands-on-experience” guide and a “how-to-do” guide. The aim is to provide the trainers with easy to use “hints and tools” that highlight the salient features of training adults in the innovative issues that are included in Integrated Coastal Zone Management and the impacts of climate changes and adaptation.

- **Survey and report on the gap analysis of local stakeholders training needs and gaps of knowledge on ICZM and climate changes issues.** This was done through the development of a dedicated questionnaire, addressed to the local stakeholders in all three Med- partner countries. The analysis and evaluation of the survey results provide a systematic mapping on stakeholder perceptions and attitudes towards these issues and to identify the training needs of local stakeholders in Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Climate Changes. The report is available as “Gap Analysis Report” in <http://www.litusgo.eu/?products>.
- **The mapping of vocational training methods/ institutions/ conditions in each of the Med-partner countries.** The report is a valuable and comprehensive tool. It can be downloaded from the portal. This work was the result of the suggestions to the Member States that are included in the EU ICZM Recommendation (2002/413/EC) “(L148/26) *determine how appropriate national training and education programmes can support implementation of integrated management principles in the coastal zone*”.
- **The LitusGo portal:** www.litusgo.eu. The portal was designed and uploaded on the net from the very beginning of the project. It is one of the main tools for the success of LitusGo, since it contains all the products. It is also a tool for communication.
- **The Local Info Data Base:** includes data from each Med-partner, in a region-specific way. The Data Base Fields relate to ICZM and climate changes (e.g. existing legal framework, meteorological, demographic and social data , land uses, archaeology-culture, natural resources, future development plans and trends, eco-systems, stakeholder participation). The Local Info Data Bases for the pilot areas of Pafos, Paros and Malta are available on the portal. The Data Base incorporates a dedicated technology in order to allow any interested party outside the partnership to create his own Local Info e-Data Base just by introducing data directly on the base included in the portal. This is an important exploitation tool that has been broadly advertised by the LitusGo group.
- **The LitusGo photo gallery:** It was uploaded on the portal from the very beginning and it is updated regularly in order to present project’s meetings and activities.

Results:

- The Lisbon Strategy sets the target: The European economy should become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world. LitusGo introduces innovative training approaches to address two important global environmental issues with high economic value and European-wide significance: coastal management and climate change. By building capacity and non-routine skills of key actors and decision makers at the local level and focusing on the fragile coastal region of the Mediterranean, LitusGo aims at contributing to the European effort of enhancing high-qualified human capital (COM(2008) 868) and promote sustainable development. During the project period, more than 110 local stakeholders in Cyprus, Paros and Malta participated in the pilot trainings.
- With a strong dissemination and exploitation strategy, the project creates an innovative training product, with problem-solving orientation immediately exploitable in the entire Med-region and easily customised to accommodate the needs of other European coastal areas. More than 100,000 people have been informed on LitusGo through the media: TV interviews and reportage, radio interviews and jingles, articles in newspapers, e-newsletter, facebook etc. Participation of LitusGo partners in events and other activities, have spread the “news” on the possibilities of LitusGo, in a “face to face” way.
- A major envisaged impact is to support local policy makers, practitioners and society to develop skills and capacity in order to foster the knowledge base for policy and practice on sustainable development in the Mediterranean. By acquiring non routine skills, the trainees will improve their status in the labour market. The promotion of networking, synergies and mobility is an inherent activity in LitusGo. This approach had immediate results in the exploitation of the LitusGo products: several authorities and vocational training centres are always either implementing LitusGo Modules, solutions and suggestions (eg Agios Athanasios in Limassol, Kouklia in Pafos, MCAST Vocational Training Institute in Malta), or are interested in proceeding with transferring LitusGo to their capacity building needs (e.g. Terramo Province in Italy, the Abruzzo Region).

4. Partnerships

The partnership is formed by representatives of the major coastal key actors: SMEs, Consultancies, NGOs and Local Authorities:

From Cyprus:

- **Coordinator:** ISOTECH Ltd Environmental Research and Consultancy, www.isotech.com.cy
- Municipality of Pafos www.pafos.org.cy
- AKTI Project and Research Centre, www.akti.org.cy

From Greece:

- **ELLINIKI ETAIRIA - Society for the Environment and Cultural Heritage, SUSTAINABLE AEGEAN PROGRAMME** (www.ellet.gr, www.egaio.gr)
- ONISIS web development www.onisis.gr

From Malta:

- Municipality of Kirkop

The Netherlands:

- The Coastal & Marine Union (EUCC www.eucc.nl)

The LitusGo partnership is a multi actor group, a blend of the major coastal key stakeholders: SMEs, NGOs and Local Authorities: seven partners from Cyprus, Greece, Malta and The Netherlands. All of the partners have cooperated in the past amongst themselves, and this is a guarantee for the sustainability of the partnership. The Local Authorities from the two big Med islands, Cyprus (Pafos) and Malta (Kirkop), and the network of good practices of sustainability in the Aegean islands of the Sustainable Aegean Programme with 570 members (343 entrepreneurs, 117 local NGO's and 41 municipalities, 61 active citizens and 8 academics) give a strong end users base of local decision makers and stakeholders. The coordinator, the Cypriot Consulting enterprise ISOTECH Ltd has a long experience and in-house expertise on coastal zone management and environmental consultancy, research and adult training (eg promoter of the LdV project OrganicMed). AKTI, the Cypriot NGO, has a long experience and expertise in awareness raising campaigns, environmental trainings, public participation and has a network of Local Authorities and Greek and Turkish Cypriot NGOs. The SUSTAINABLE AEGEAN PROGRAMME of, ELLINIKI ETAIRIA - Society for the Environment and Cultural Heritage, (one of the most active NGOs in Greece), has long in-house expertise in raising awareness on sustainability and in the islands' stakeholders

involvement The Municipality of Kirkop in Malta although small, has in-house expertise in social work, organic agriculture and vocational training. ONISIS, the ICT experts is a young company with young ICT-people who work with enthusiasm on ICT applications. The Coastal & Marine Union. (EUCC),, based in the Netherlands, has a long international experience on coastal issues and on relevant vocational training (e.g. the Coastlearn project, funded by LdV). EUCC is the Quality controller of LitusGo products and supports dissemination exploitation with its strong network all around Europe.

Networking with Stakeholders

A major part of the development of the participatory methodology of LitusGo and one of the major tasks of the project is the involvement of the stakeholders. The cooperation of all civil actors is needed, in a national and local level in order to achieve a real impact and sustainability. One of the first deliverables of LitusGo is to identify the key-actors in each of the pilot areas. A major continuous activity is the involvement of the stakeholders in the implementation of the project. This is achieved through the following activities:

- Multi-stakeholder meetings/workshops: twice a year. The first multi stakeholder meetings in Pafos, Paros and in Malta have been a great success. Stakeholders expressed a genuine commitment to cooperate and participate with a strong interest in “alternative” development possibilities, since they suffer from the economic crisis.
- Active participation of the stakeholders in the test trainings of the LitusGo curriculum
- Frequent communication through facebook and e-mails
- Participation of stakeholders in dedicated surveys, e.g. the survey for assessing the stakeholders training needs on ICZM and climate changes, they offered their views on several issues, and offered their support in a number of cases, e.g. in dissemination activities.
- ICT tools:
 - the portal www.litusgo.eu, the Litusgo group in facebook and other web-facilities included in the LitusGo portal (e-forum, etc).
 - LitusGo on facebook is an important networking and dissemination tool
- Events such as the Environment Day (5th June), the Coast Day (23rd October), where LitusGo invites its stakeholders to participate.
- Participation of LitusGo partners in events that are organized by the stakeholders

Networking with other networks outside the partnership:

Apart from the networks that the partners either coordinate or participate (e.g. The Regional Network for Sustainable Future, that AKTI is the coordinator, or AKTI's network with more than 700 entities as subscribers in AKTI's e-newsletter, or the Aegean Islands through the network of Greek partner 3), several more networks and entities have been e contacted and briefed on LitusGo, such as the Blue Flag, the QualityCoast, Local Authorities such as the Prefecture of Terramo in Italy, other running projects such as the SUSTAIN (Interreg IVC) or the MARLISCO (7th FFR concerted action) etc. Networking is considered by the partnership a very important aspect for the sustainability of the project.

5. Plans for the Future

LitusGo covers a gap in information, training and capacity building on two innovative and “marketable” issues: Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Climate Changes. The innovative and participatory approach of LitusGo and the innovative themes make the LitusGo Education Method challenging and gives a potential for further exploitation and implementation.

The trans-national, trans-sectoral and interdisciplinary character of the partnership, is reflected in the “multi – disciplinary” character of the Education Manuals. This is an additional “plus” in the “marketing” potentials of LitusGo.

All the above characteristics and the ones mentioned below, make LitusGo a “marketable” education tool. And this is a major asset for the future plans of the partnership.

Interest has been already expressed to use LitusGo training material, by several other Regions and Local Authorities, entities and civil society organizations outside of the partnership, some of them are:

- ✓ Terramo Prefecture in Italy, partners of SUSTAIN project (Interreg IVC project) is going to submit a proposal under LdV at the first call of 2012, for “transfer of technology”, in order to transfer LitusGo for the needs of Local Authorities in the Abruzzo Region.
- ✓ The vocational training institute of Agribusiness MCAST in Malta, implemented LitusGo Training Manual at the 4th grade of their studies, as a 60 hour session on ICZM (Integrated Coastal Zone Management). 60 students attended this year (2012). MCAST will keep this session in its official curriculum.
- ✓ AKTI- Cyprus: AKTI officially included LitusGo as part of the training to the vocational training project “ARGONAFIS”.
- ✓ The Blue Flag National Coordinator of Cyprus (the NGO CYMEPA) participated in the test trainings in Limassol and now there is a discussion on introducing selected LitusGo sessions from selected modules of the Manual, as training/ education of Local Authorities that are candidates or have been awarded the Blue Flag.

- ✓ LitusGo formed the basis for a 30 hour training session carried out by ISOTECH Ltd in Limassol, within the framework of the National Authority of Human Resources Development program of “vital importance” for capacity building. Participation of 2 Municipalities, 2 NGOs, 2 Consulting SME’s/ civil engineering office, i.e. the complete target group of LitusGo
 - ✓ LitusGo module on “Erosion/ morphological control” was the basic material during a 3-hour post graduate course delivered by the project coordinator at the Environmental Engineering Department of the University of Cyprus
 - ✓ Terra Cypria, the Cypriot NGO, member of the European Environment Bureau, also participated in the test trainings in Limassol and was committed to promote LitusGo possibilities to the EEB and further to the Environment Centre that Terra Cypria runs in Pafos.
- Due to its modular structure, LitusGo can be implemented in sessions, covering some aspects of ICZM or climate changes. This provides the education material with a flexibility. For example, “soft” erosion control, or good waste management practices such as composting, and promotion of information systems for flood alarms etc have been communicated to local stakeholders through the multi-stakeholder meetings and are already promoted by the involved Local Authorities, as well as by non-partner entities (e.g. Limassol Municipality, the Agios Athanasios Municipality and the Kouklia Community in Cyprus, the Parikia Community in Paros, the Agribusiness Vocational Training Institute of Malta ect).
 - LitusGo is known to the “coastal” people of Europe. The partners receive several contacts for more information, be kept up-to-date. LitusGo was included in Coastal Wiki. There is interest in exploiting LitusGo products, as mentioned above.

With an innovative training method and a solution-oriented innovative education Manual, coupled with a strong dissemination and exploitation strategy, LitusGo is a marketable product, immediately exploitable in the entire Med-region and easily customized to accommodate the needs of other European coastal areas. The efforts of the partnership will continue. The partnership is committed to promote LitusGo and support the potential that is already expressed to work further with the implementation of this innovative training tool.

6. Contribution to EU policies

The Lisbon Strategy has set the target that the European economy should become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world. LitusGo introduces innovative training approaches to address two important global environmental issues with high economic value and European-wide significance: coastal management and climate change. By building capacity and non-routine skills of key actors and decision makers at the local level and focusing on the fragile coastal region of the Mediterranean, the approach aims in contributing to the European effort of enhancing high-qualified human capital (COM(2008) 868) and promoting sustainable development.

The EU ICZM Recommendation (2002/413/EC) suggests to the Member States to “(L148/26) *determine how appropriate national training and education programmes can support implementation of integrated management principles in the coastal zone*”. The ENCORA (European Network of Coastal Research) in its European Coastal Action Plan suggests as one of the four key actions the concerted development of a European Network of capacity building resource centres, aiming among others to the creation of a critical mass of practitioners and policy makers that push ICZM to the centre stage of economic and environmental goals. LitusGo is in line with these targets.

The LitusGo Training Manuals are developed with reference to important EU policies and several EU Directives are addressed in the key issues of the training material such as the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Recommendation (2002/413/EC), the Marine Strategy, the EU Flood Directive 2007/60/EC, the Water Framework and others.

ICTs can play an important role in generating accessibility and promoting territorial cohesion in the Mediterranean (Med operational program). The wiki based e-training Manuals allow cooperation with the coastal wiki (ENCORA) and other existing European structures. Facebook, MySpace, RSS technology will boost the exploitability of the results. In general the Med countries have still not reached a level that come close the EU25 average concerning use of ICT technologies (Med operational program, CCI 2007 CB 163 PO 045). So LitusGo is contributing to this gap as well.

The trans-national, trans-sectoral and interdisciplinary character of the partnership, was a major “con” for LitusGo: key stakeholders from the two big islands of the Mediterranean, Cyprus and Malta, and the Greek NGO with a network of 41 local authorities from the Greek

Aegean islands as members function well with the international expertise of EUCC and interdisciplinary expertise from Cyprus, Greece and Malta. And this reflects in the “multi – disciplinary” character of the Education Manuals. Thus, this is an additional “plus” in the “European” character of LitusGo.

Cultural particularities are inherent in the partnership and thus played an important role in the development of the work. The blending of cultural particularities in fields that are traditionally considered as technical, proved very effective while developing the education material and while delivering the training during the test trainings. It is a LitusGo innovation, in line with European targets of integrating fields of society and science.